

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to better distinguish over the prior art and new claim 17 is presented to afford a differing scope of protection and which, as well, has been prepared with a view to distinguishing over the prior art-- that prior art including the newly cited European Patent Application publication No. 1065650 presented in an IDS concurrently filed with this Preliminary Amendment and related RCE.

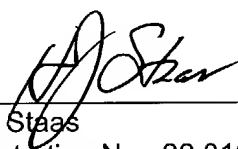
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 24, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
H. J. Staas

Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

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